

DETOUR
MACKAY BRIDGE CLOSED AGAIN THIS WEEKEND {page 4}

COMIC-CON
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IT'S ON

BRISTOL PALIN TO MARRY LEVI REKINDLED {page 12}



HALIFAX metro®
Thursday, July 15, 2010
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Navy. New ships



▶ Defence Minister Peter MacKay fields questions yesterday.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MacKay announces new boats

Federal Defence Minister Peter MacKay yesterday announced a $2.6-billion plan to replace Canada's aging vessels with the purchase of two new joint support ships after previous efforts to do so collapsed. Story, page 3.

Is Big Brother dating you?

Technology has made dating as fun as ordering pizza {page 7}

Nova Scotia to play for bronze

Hammered at under-18 Football Canada Cup {page 17}

Memo not generic: Councillor

City hall source: Drunk driving memo directed at specific councillors ◐ Third time mayor has had to address alcohol abuse with councillors since 2005

Mayor Peter Kelly sent out a memo to councillors warning them about the dangers of drinking and driving yesterday.

And according to one councillor, who spoke to Metro on condition of anonymity, the memo, although sent to all councillors, was specifically directed towards at least two, indicating Peter Lund and Reg Rankin.

He said other councillors had put pressure on Kelly to address the issue, and threatened to go to police if he didn't.

Rankin said it was a personal matter and did not wish to comment.

Lund did not return phone calls or emails yesterday.

Kelly confirmed he had contacted police about the issue. However, the mayor would not specify any councillors and added none of the complaints he received mentioned anyone actually driving while drunk, but involved them drinking excessively and people being concerned they might have driven afterwards.

HRP spokeswoman Theresa Rath said police had been contacted on the general issue, but said no specific names were provided. ● ALEX BOUTILIER

METRO HALIFAX FILE PHOTO



▶ Mayor Peter Kelly

"Go back to that anonymous source and say, you know, provide evidence. That's the way it works."
COUN. REG RANKIN



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$2.6B marked for new ships

- Government to procure two join support vessels, possibly a third
- Ships will be built in Canadian shipyards, no indication of which ones

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ The navy supply ship HMCS Preserver sits at dry dock while undergoing refit in Halifax yesterday.



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

The federal government is once again planning to procure at least two joint support ships for Canada's Navy.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay announced yesterday that the government will spend $2.6 billion for two ships, with an option for a third.

"The joint support ships will increase the navy's responsiveness to disasters and humanitarian response missions as we saw in Haiti most recently," MacKay said.

MacKay said the ships would be built in Canadian shipyards, but could not say which ones.

The design and tender process is expected to last about 18 months, but no guess of when the ships would be in the water was hazarded.

Process

Procurement approach improved upon, say feds

▶ **Lessons** The federal government previously attempted to acquire the ships two years ago, but MacKay said the procurement process was terminated due to non-compliant bids.

Public Works Minister Rona Ambrose said this time it's different.

"This (procurement) is within a much more streamlined, effective and what we see as a long-term approach," said Ambrose.

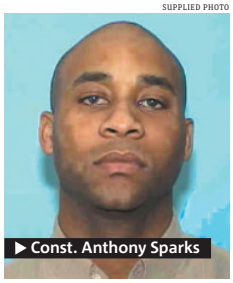
"The procurement process ... in the past, ran into delays because of cost overruns. That was one of the lessons learned, frankly, from that procurement."

HRP officer charged with assault

4

The number of schools Sparks worked with, comprised of Prince Andrew High School and its three feeder junior high schools.

SUPPLIED PHOTO



▶ Const. Anthony Sparks

A Halifax Regional Police officer who works with Dartmouth schools has been charged with assault after he was allegedly involved in a domestic dispute.

On June 4, the RCMP said that it responded to a domestic dispute involving an off-duty officer and a woman known to him. As a result of an RCMP investigation, Const. Anthony George Sparks, 36, will appear in Dartmouth Provincial Court on Aug. 4.

Sparks, who is from Cole Harbour and has been with the department for almost five years, served as a liaison officer in HRP's educational program.

He is currently on administrative duties, and will not be working with the public. ● ALEX BOUTILIER

GPS aids police in finding lost father, son

The RCMP used new technology to find a 34-year-old father and his 10-year-old son who had gotten lost fishing near Cole Harbour's Forest Hills extension Tuesday night.

The two took the wrong path home, and the father called 9-1-1 from his cellphone. Dispatchers used that call to get GPS coordinates, a technique that emergency responders have only used three times.

"It wasn't available to us in the past, but now that it is, I think you're going to see it used much more," said Const. Heidi Stevenson.

The father and son were found within an hour and were safely out of the woods — literally — by 3 a.m. yesterday morning.

● ADRIAN LEE

Man faces impaired charges

A man was charged after allegedly driving intoxicated onto a lawn on Robert Street in Fall River Tuesday.

Two shirtless men gathered their belongings and exited the vehicle just before 11p.m. They were later located by two off-duty officers in the area.

The 18-year-old driver was allegedly more than twice the legal limit and in possession of liquor, marijuana and ecstasy tablets.

He faces charges of driving impaired, possession of a controlled substance and taking a motor vehicle without consent.

● ALY THOMSON

Wanted out: Giant Hogweed

The Halifax Regional Municipality is keeping an eye on Giant Hogweed, as well as several other invasive plant species in the municipality.

Giant Hogweed, which has been spotted in several areas in HRM, can cause severe skin and eye problems — possibly blindness.

Richard MacLellan, Manager of HRM's Sustainable Environment Management Office, said concerned residents should contact Marian Munro at the Nova Scotia Museum for confirmation at 424-3564.

● ALY THOMSON

1 news

News on the move

1 Download the free ScanLife application with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use the ScanLife application on your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to relevant content at **m.metronews.ca**

On the Web at metronews.ca



Members of the Arcade Fire stress the importance of continued aid for Haiti quake relief. Video at metronews.ca/canada

Afghan army recruits put down their rifles to attend school for the first time. Video at metronews.ca/world

Scan the code for local news

‘What you find, you can keep’? Not anymore, come September

ADRIAN LEE
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

With the planned repeal of the Treasure Trove Act, Nova Scotia hopes to get treasure hunters to take their hands off of its booty.

Come September, the term “treasure” — defined as metals or precious stones — will be struck, and the act, the only one of its kind in Canada and which paid hunters for their finds, will disappear.

“This will mean that people can still look and conduct heritage research on shipwrecks,” said Michael Macdonald, executive director of the mineral resources branch at the Department of Natural Resources.

“We’ve been paying taxes of over $30,000 on property we can’t even utilize.”
DANIEL BLANKENSHIP, 87, WHO HAS BEEN WAITING FOR TWO YEARS FOR HIS TREASURE TROVE LICENCE TO EXPLORE OAK ISLAND

“But any materials that are found will be deemed to be owned by the Crown.”

A spokesman at the Ministry of Natural Resources said that no further treasure trove licences will be distributed after December to hunt around Nova Scotia’s 10,000 shipwrecks.

Instead, the emphasis will be on preserving the province’s cultural heritage.

A bridge too far for summer motorists

MacKay to close again this weekend Deck panels being replaced

ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Jayne Erickson felt the wrath of traffic on her way to work last Sunday due to the MacKay Bridge closure.

“The fact that I can’t use the (MacKay) bridge to get to my place of work and back just tacks at least an extra 20 minutes onto my day,” said Erickson, who lives in Bedford.

“People are getting aggravated on the road, which is dangerous.”

Theresa Rath, public relations manager for the Halifax Regional Police, said there were several accidents on the Macdonald Bridge last weekend, which led to some of the congestion.

She advises drivers to “be patient and to slow down” when taking alternate routes during the bridge closure.

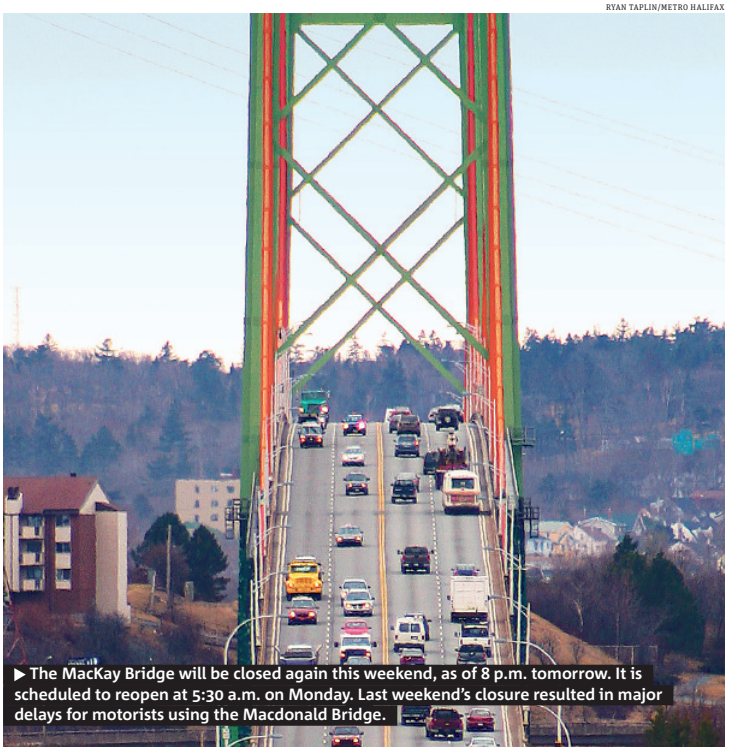
More delays

The delays aren’t done yet. Drivers can expect further delays in the coming weekends.

- **July 23-26** The bridge will be reduced to two lanes, says Allison MacDonald of Halifax Harbour Bridges.
- **Natal Day** MacDonald said the bridge will remain open for Natal Day.
- **One more closure** She says one additional weekend closure will be required, but dates have not been determined.

$7.4M
The total cost of the maintenance project. Half is provided by the Halifax Bridge Commission, while the rest is from federal infrastructure dollars.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX



▶ The MacKay Bridge will be closed again this weekend, as of 8 p.m. tomorrow. It is scheduled to reopen at 5:30 a.m. on Monday. Last weekend’s closure resulted in major delays for motorists using the Macdonald Bridge.

Clicking for a good cause

Charities across Canada, including two from Halifax, are now asking people to donate with their mouse, and not just with their wallet.

The Kiari Foundation is hosting a national contest that will award three prizes of up to $20,000 to the three charities that receive the most online votes.

2 Of the 18 charities eligible as of yesterday, two are Halifax-based: Parker Street Food & Furniture Bank and Adsum House.

Every day until Dec. 31, Canadians can vote for their favourite non-profit organization at www.winavote.com.

As of yesterday afternoon, two of the 18 candidates are Halifax-based: Parker Street Food & Furniture Bank feeds over 250 families a week, while Adsum House is a refuge for women at risk of homelessness.

ADRIAN LEE

For more info on the contest and to cast your vote, visit www.winavote.com

5 arrests in drug cases

Halifax Regional Police made five arrests in two separate drug deals Tuesday night.

In Dartmouth, three people were arrested and an 18-year-old man was charged with possession of cocaine and marijuana.

In Halifax’s north end, two men were arrested.

ADRIAN LEE

News in brief

Teen hurt in auto accident

INJURY. A 14-year-old broke a leg after being struck by a pickup truck at Stanbrae and Purcells Cove Roads yesterday afternoon.

At 12:30 p.m., the pedestrian was exiting a Metro Transit bus and began to cross the street when he was hit by a woman driving a truck which was passing the bus.

The boy was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

ALY THOMSON

More are lighting up

HEALTH. The number of smokers in Nova Scotia has gone up by nearly 6,000 people since 2004.

According to Statistics Canada, the number had jumped from more than 180,000 to more than 186,000 in 2009.

The statistic is based on people over the age of 12 who reported being a current smoker. The population of Nova Scotia is about 938,000.

ALY THOMSON

Victims had seatbelts off

SAFETY. Police say none of the three men involved in a fatal crash near Point Michaud, N.S., on Tuesday was wearing a seatbelt.

Jonathan Briand and Liam Madden, both 22, were killed when their car left the road and rolled into a ditch.

An 18-year-old, whose name has not been released, remains in hospital in serious condition.

Police say they are investigating the possibility that speed and alcohol may have played a role in the crash.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luring charge for N.B. man

INTERNET. A New Brunswick man was charged with two counts of luring a child over the Internet.

William Atkins, 65, faces charges stemming from an investigation by the Halifax Regional Police

ALY THOMSON

Storm lashes capital, experts tongue-lashed

Philippines president scolds weathermen for failing to predict storm At least 26 people killed

The first typhoon to lash the Philippines this year earned the weathermen a tongue-lashing.

Newly elected President Benigno Aquino III scolded the weather bureau for failing to predict that the storm would hit Manila, the capital.

"This is unacceptable," Aquino told officials. He noted that government agencies were relying on the weather bureau for their preparations.

"I hope this is the last time we are all brought to areas different from where we should be."

Weather bureau chief Prisco Nilo explained it takes forecasters six hours to update weather bulletins.

The weather bureau has complained of lack of funding and equipment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather's fury

The Philippines is hit by about 20 typhoons and storms a year. This time, devastation was widespread.

- **The toll:** At least 26 people were killed, authorities said. About 40 were missing.
- **At sea:** Four fishermen drowned and 18 were rescued as waves hit their boats.
- **On land:** Several people were killed by falling debris. One man died trying to save a dozen pigs.

63 Manila airport officials said 63 flights, including four international ones had been cancelled and nine diverted.

BULLIT MARQUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ A mother pushes a tricycle with her children on board after their home collapsed east of Manila.

Newcomers face high drowning risk: Study

Newcomers to Canada have a higher risk of drowning in boating and swimming mishaps than those born in the country, a study has found.

The study, from the Lifesaving Society, focused on newcomers from China, South Asia and Southeast Asia, and found people in Canada for less than five years are at highest risk of drowning.

Even though 20 per cent of immigrants said they cannot swim, 79 per cent said they planned to spend time around or on the water this summer.

They could be putting themselves at risk by making those plans, considering a third of the respondents who weren't born in Canada are afraid of water and half worry their kids could drown, said Lifesaving Society spokesperson Barbara Byers.

Just four per cent of Canadian respondents said they couldn't swim.

Immigrants may come from landlocked countries or may have had little water safety training, so they could be unaware of how dangerous water can be, Byers said.

"They want to do what everybody else is doing, and they just don't realize that you need to have some training and some lessons," Byers added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ Many immigrants go to Ashbridges Bay in Toronto.

Deadly waters

The study looked at responses from 1,032 Canadians, including 599 newcomers.

- Nearly 500 people drown each year in Canada, according to statistics compiled by the Lifesaving Society.
- New immigrants face a higher risk of drowning, the study says.

Cop busted by video won't serve time

A former New York City police officer is getting no jail time for lying about a confrontation with a bike-riding demonstrator that millions saw when a video of it was posted online.

Patrick Pogan received a conditional discharge at his sentencing yesterday. He had faced up to four years behind bars.

He'd said the cyclist steered into him. But a witness' video contradicting him was posted on YouTube.

Pogan, 24, resigned last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

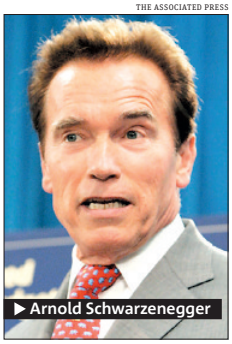
Sorry Arnie, you've lost their vote

A new poll says California voters are giving Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger the thumbs-down.

The poll, released yesterday, says just 22 per cent of voters approve of his performance, while 70 per cent disapprove.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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▶ Arnold Schwarzenegger

Bus driver detours ... to be a hero

A Buffalo transit bus driver is being hailed for saving 10 people asleep inside a burning home by pounding on the door.

After his heroics, Richard Lucas got back behind the wheel and finished his route.

"People have got to go to work. That's what we do," Lucas said later.

A woman living upstairs with her three children and a nephew, and a man downstairs with his wife and three kids said they all could have died if not for Lucas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tea partiers draw heat for invoking Hitler

Party member says images of dictators overshadowed message Holocaust-survivor group welcomes removal

DEB NICKLAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ This billboard, in Mason City, Iowa, showing President Barack Obama, Adolph Hitler, left, and Vladimir Lenin, has been removed.

A conservative group yesterday replaced a billboard comparing U.S. President Barack Obama to Adolf Hitler and Vladimir Lenin, calling the sign a bad decision that reflected poorly on the organization.

Workers papered over the sign in downtown Mason City at the request of an anti-tax tea party group in the state of Iowa.

The roughly 200-member tea party group had the original sign put up last week.

After the billboard drew sharp criticism by other state and national tea party leaders, members of the local group sought the change.

North Iowa Tea Party co-founder Bob Johnson said he and other leaders agreed with critics that the image of Obama between Hitler and Lenin was offensive. He said the images overwhelmed the intended message of anti-socialism.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Poland. Nazi imagery



▶ A worker walks below a controversial poster advertising an art show in Poznan, Poland.

MACIEJ URBANOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Poster strikes a nerve

A poster in Poznan featuring a swastika, a nude woman and Mickey Mouse is causing a stir in Poland, where memories of Nazism remain strong.

A flu shot without the shot

Come this fall, some Canadians will finally have the option of getting a flu shot without the shot part.

Pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca announced yesterday that it has received Health Canada's approval to bring its nasal spray vaccine, FluMist, to the Canadian market. The product has been on the U.S. market since 2003.

FluMist is the only non-injectable flu vaccine in North America. The vaccine is delivered to a recipient's immune system by squirting a fine mist into a nostril.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Because live virus is used, FluMist is not recommended for use in pregnant women or nursing mothers. It's also not approved for use in children under two years or age or people over age 59.

Forecast: Get used to slower growth

The Canadian economy's rocket-like recovery is burning out, falling into a prolonged period of more modest growth, a new forecast from the Conference Board predicts.

After annualized growth rates of 4.9 per cent and 6.1 per cent in the last three months of 2009 and first three of 2010, the economy is expected to slow significantly in the second half of this year and into 2011.

"It's not a double-dip recession, it's growth not as strong as in the past," says economist Pedro Antunes, director of forecasting for the Conference Board.

For the year, the think-tank expects growth to average 3.6 per cent in 2010 and 2.9 per cent in 2011.

Many expect the Bank of Canada to temper its expectations about the economy next week, but not so much as to dissuade governor Mark Carney from taking interest rates up a quarter-point to 0.75 per cent.

The Conference Board says Canadians should also expect job creation to slow, although it believes the unemployment rate will continue to decline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2.9% **The Conference Board says growth will slow to 3.6 per cent when the second quarter results are in, then to 3.3 per cent in the third quarter and finally to 2.9 per cent in the final quarter of 2010.**

iPhone fans may ignore problems

Despite a decision by Consumer Reports against endorsing the latest iPhone because of reception problems, fans who have braved poor reception for years are likely to keep buying. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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I FEEL LIKE I'M DATING BIG BROTHER

He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE



I was chatting on a dating site with a friend I know from "real life." I was looking for short-term tryst(s), she wanted a girl to sleep with. "I feel like I'm shopping for humans," she wrote. And so we were.

Finding a mate online is like ordering pizza. Thin or thick? Chicago- or New York-style? Maybe a little Greek? Hold the anchovies, of course. But maybe, just for tonight, something extra saucy.

The dating landscape has changed since the previous time I was single, which was seven years ago. Specifically, it's been digitized.

I put girls in my online shopping cart and they do the same to me.

People were using their computers to date seven years ago, but it still had an underlying connotation of shame about it, especially because you had to pay for it. Now it's shameless, many sites are free, and no photo set is complete without cleavage or abs. The rack or the six-pack. Aisle 3.

"Technology has made dating less fun because all the real opportunities for disaster are gone."

Technology has made dating less fun because all the real opportunities for disaster are gone. What if you had nothing to talk about? What if you were a sexual freak and they were a Jesus freak? What if they were cute until they opened their mouths?

This made it more satisfying when you found a connection.

Now all that's figured out for you. On any given "blind" date I know my counterpart's looks, expectations, education, job, income, drinking and drug habits, religious beliefs, astrological sign, and their thoughts on kids, pets, the free-market system and whether they prefer The Simpsons or Family Guy.

Then you meet, with no discovery possible, to see if you have that "spark" — specifically, making sure they haven't gotten fat since their photos were taken.

The medium is the message. You are no more than your composite parts.

Yet I keep online dating because, hey, a bad meal is better than no meal, right? Who doesn't like pizza?

There's no going back to the old ways, even if sometimes we come close: I met recently with a woman I graduated high school with. We had an old-fashioned date, with flirting and fear, and a lifetime of "remember when" to draw upon.

I contacted her through Facebook. I'm a man of the times.

• • •

John Mazerolle is a comic and writer in Toronto. Read more at www.beaverexaminer.ca

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Not ready for King Harper

Letters & Tweets

EDMONTON. As a country, Canada is very young. One hundred and forty-three years, under both a monarchy, and a constitutional monarchy.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II — the "Defender of the Faith" — has served us, and we have, in turn, served the monarchy well.

Yes, Prince Charles seems a rather eccentric and odd fellow, but who wouldn't be, when his sole purpose is to wait to serve.

Her Majesty is "a much-loved personage" worldwide, and therefore a very tough act to follow, on the world's stage.

The task before the Prince of Wales is daunting!

However, given the choice between Stephen Harper as President of a New Republic — and de facto "King" — I'll stick with the monarchy, albeit a constitutional monarchy.

Stephen Harper's rule, as I see it, is one of complete and utter disregard for the House of Commons — Canada's law-making body — and our 143-year-old Westminster parliament.

Harper is out of control.

His unprincipled rule, as prime minister, shows to me that he is not fit to govern Canada with a majority. **WILLIAM ARCHIE BALDWIN**

The PM and his boss

JOHN STILLWELL-POOL/GETTY IMAGES



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Noteworthy

U.S. votes to keep Avandia on market

A majority of U.S. government health experts has voted to keep the controversial diabetes pill Avandia on the market despite evidence that it increases the risk of heart attack. Panelists said the evidence wasn't strong enough to remove the drug from the market. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Metro Minute on the harbour ferry

If you think the ride across the harbour needs a little culture, you'll get it today if you're on the ferry between 3 and 4 p.m.

HRM's poet laureate Shauntay Grant is getting involved in a first-of-its-kind event for poets laureate called Free Verse. Eight visiting poets representing cities across the country — including Edmonton and Vancouver — are in town to participate in a number of events. Poets and a saxophone player will regale commuters on today's 3:15 p.m. ferry leaving Halifax for Dartmouth.

From there the poets will head to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia for several events tonight, including a reading of artwork-inspired poetry. **JENNIFER TAPLIN**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



▶ Shauntay Grant.

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BRIDGEWATER
Bridgewater Mall
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202 Brownlow Ave.
Atlantic Superstore
Mic Mac Mall
ELMSDALE
269 Hwy. 214
FALL RIVER
Fall River Plaza
GLACE BAY
People's Mall
GREENWOOD
Greenwood Mall
HALIFAX
Halifax Shopping Centre (lower level) – kiosk
Halifax Shopping Centre (upper level)
Maritime Centre
Scotia Square
209 Chain Lake Dr.
5475 Spring Garden Road
West End Mall
LOWER SACKVILLE
Sobeys, 752 Sackville Dr.
Atlantic Superstore
NEW GLASGOW
Highland Square Mall
NEW MINAS
County Fair Mall
NORTH SYDNEY
131 King's St
PORT HAWKESBURY
Shediac Plaza
PORTERS LAKE
5228 Hwy. 7
SYDNEY
465 George St.
516 Grand Lake Rd.
Mayflower Mall
SYDNEY RIVER
Value Check Plaza
TANTALLON
Sobeys, Hubley Centre
TRURO
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Truro Mall
Truro Sobeys, 985 Prince St.
WINDSOR
Fort Edward Mall
YARMOUTH
Yarmouth Mall

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136 Logan Rd.
CHETICAMP
Aucoin's
14803 Cabot Trail Hwy.
DARTMOUTH
Axis Mobility
336 Windmill Road
Nova Communications
167 Trider Avenue
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San Diego's pop-culture party sets the buzz around upcoming films and TV shows ◆ Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie expected to show up at next week's event ◆ Los Angeles and Anaheim among cities bidding for a chance to host Comic-Con

HANDOUT PHOTO



▶ The Green Hornet, starring Canadian actor Seth Rogen (right) and Jay Chou, will be one of the highlights at next week's Comic-Con.

Nerdy Comic-Con now A-list hot spot

Tron, Harry Potter, The Green Hornet, and Brangelina?

This year's Comic-Con has something for everyone, and might even be graced by Hollywood's first couple.

No longer strictly the domain of nerds and fanboys, San Diego's four-day pop-culture festival promises film and TV fodder for fans of all kinds, plus video games, toys, collectibles and costumes galore when it kicks off next week.

"I can't wait," says filmmaker Kevin Smith, an annual regular considered royalty at the convention.

"Comic-Con for me is — Muslims like to go to kneel, what is it, three times a day toward Mecca and whatnot. I do the same thing for San Diego and that massive building"

What began 40 years ago as a humble comic-book fair has grown into a barometer of cool powered by the ardent enthusiasm of more than 100,000 fans — and the Hollywood studios who want a piece of the action.

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie aren't officially on the guest list, and studio reps are staying mum about whether they'll attend, but A-list surprises often happen at Comic-Con, where Johnny Depp and Hugh Jackman previously showed up unannounced.

Brad Pitt voices one of the lead characters in the animated Megamind, and his co-stars Will Ferrell,

"Comic-Con is all about these shows connecting with the kids who are going to go back home and tell everyone."
TODD GOLD, FANCAST.COM

Tina Fey and Jonah Hill are expected at the Dreamworks Animation panel next Thursday to introduce the film.

"Comic-Con used to be offbeat, nerdy," says Jeanne Wolf of Parade magazine. "Well, now we've found out that the Comic-Con buzz gets straight to the audience that watches TV shows. And also we've found out that with this computerized age, most of us are geeks and nerds."

Reaching a passionate audience that will not only talk up their favourite flicks to friends but also buy tickets on opening night is too important an opportunity for studios to miss, says box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian of Hollywood.com.

"That's the audience you want to get excited about your movie," he says. "If they get on board, you get instant credibility."

Unlike traditional film festivals, aimed at critics and distributors, Comic-Con focuses on fans - an integral part of ratings and box-office success.

"It's on the circuit with Show West, Show East and the film festivals," Dergarabedian says. "Comic-Con is as vital and as valid and important a part of the moviegoing world as any of those other movie-related conventions and festivals. It's a fully grown, fully realized force to be reckoned with."

Comic-Con begins next Wednesday, July 21, at the San Diego Convention Center. While San Diego has promised $500,000 in hotel tax revenue to event organizers to keep the colorful convention in the city, its contract with Comic Con International expires in 2012. Los Angeles and Anaheim, Calif., are among the cities bidding to become the convention's new hosts beginning in 2013.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inside Comic-Con

- **WHERE/WHEN** Wednesday, July 21, at the San Diego Convention Centre
- **MOVIES WITH BUZZ** TRON: Legacy, The Green Hornet, The Expendables, Drive Angry 3-D, RED, Scott Pilgrim vs. The World
- **TV SHOWS WITH BUZZ** Dexter, The Big Bang Theory, true Blood, The Vampire Diaries

2 scene

News in brief



1



2

1 A lawmaker is questioning the legality of work permits for Kate Gosselin's sextuplets for the reality show Kate Plus 8.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 A man accused of stealing jewelry from Julie 'Catwoman' Newmar has pleaded no contest to grand theft.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan code for a story on Bono's return (for instructions, see pg 3)


▶ Chiwetel Ejiofor stars in the upcoming film Salt.

Ejiofor is Salt of the Earth

In some flicks viewers can't really connect to anything. This actor is seeking to change that.


NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Chiwetel Ejiofor has quietly built a genre-defying resume any actor would envy.

With a background in theater, he's easily jumped from small productions (Kinky Boots) to big (2012), serious films (Children of Men) to more lighthearted fare (Love Actually).

In Salt, Ejiofor takes on the role of a counter-intelligence pro hot on the trail of Angelina Jolie's suspected spy.

Metro caught up with the British actor in Washington, D.C., where much of the current movie was filmed.

Have you always been a fan of this genre?

Definitely, yeah.It breaks into sort of two categories for me: I like the old-school kind of spy stuff, the John Le Carré spy stuff. But I also really enjoy the "Mission:Impossible" spies — the series as well as the

" I don't know what the situation is with Bond at the moment... It would be lovely to be in a Bond film."
CHIWETEL EJIOFOR

films — just because of the intricacy of how everything's done, the detail of having to go back and figure out everything, and the scripts just being like little puzzles.

What stood out about Salt as a spy thriller for you?

This is taking on a kind of slightly more bureaucratic sense of the CIA, to me a kind of grounded sense of the CIA.

As opposed to the sort of — I mean, obviously, who doesn't love the Bond series? But it's different. They're people and they do a job and they're in offices with ties, and they're just sort of getting through the day. And occasionally — like on this particular occasion — something big happens and they have to respond to that. But for the most part they're just kind of ticking away, looking at data.

Would you ever want to be in a Bond film?

Well I certainly wouldn't rule it out. I don't know what the situation is with Bond at the moment, but God I hope they can figure it out. It would be lovely to be in a Bond film.

You've had an incredibly diverse career. How much conscious effort do you put into trying to be in as many different genres as possible?

Well, not a lot, really.

I'm just very happy to work in any medium that I can and any genre that I can if I'm engaged with the material.

I have a working method, but I can apply that to different parts and different types of parts.



Nolan trying to create new realities in film

For the visually savvy filmmaker, there's a new frontier with as much cinematic appeal as the old West held for moviemakers half a century ago.

With often dazzling results, filmmakers are turning to the mind itself as an uncharted landscape worth exploring. Movies such as Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus and the new Inception turn cameras inward, sending their characters headlong into dream worlds and psyches manifested on screen.

These dreamscapes offer a boundless universe for cinematic bravado where real world rules need not apply. Though Hollywood — the "dream factory" — has a long, intertwined history with psychology, recent movies of the mind suggest a new trend where characters and camera dive headlong into the mind.

Christopher Nolan, who directed

"Really, it's just creating an alternate reality for people to explore that they could never have imagined themselves. With 'Inception,' that is certainly my attempt"
CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

and wrote Inception,' said that the way a dream is formed, to him, "suggests infinite potential for human creativity, an infinite mystery to the way the human mind works."

"I really think that that's when the tools of large-scale Hollywood filmmaking are being used to serve their best ends,'' he said in a recent interview. ``Really, it's just creating an alternate reality for people to explore that they could never have imagined themselves. With 'Inception,' that is certainly my attempt to try and do that.''

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Superman suffers from geographic kryptonite

One of America's most enduring superheroes has begun a cross-country trek in Philadelphia.

In the pages of DC Comics' latest issue of Superman, which hit stands yesterday, the Man of Steel embarks on a yearlong journey on foot from the City of Brotherly Love.

For all his powers, though, he still needs a lesson in geography.

The 500 block of South 48th Street is described as the city's South Side.

It's actually the University City section of west Philadelphia. The flub has generated some good-natured ribbing from locals, and DC Comics co-publisher Dan DiDio says that's OK. He says that means people are reading the comic and there's a sense of area pride. Superman travels to Detroit in the next one.THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HBO banks on Hoffman

Dustin Hoffman is coming to TV and HBO is lucky enough to have landed him.

HBO says that Hoffman will star in Luck, a new drama series about the horse racing world and the owners, gamblers and jockeys who are part of it.

Other cast members include Dennis Farina, Nick Nolte and Hall of Fame rider Gary Stevens, who appeared in the film Seabiscuit. HBO said Wednesday that the series will begin shooting this fall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Album reviews A classic ●●●●● | Buy it ●●●● | Get the single ●●● | Borrow it ●● | Don't bother ●

M.I.A. lost and found

M.I.A.
Album: /\/\/\Y/\
Label: XL
●●●●○



Having achieved a proper hit in 2008 with Paper Planes, appearing on the Grammys nine months pregnant with Jay-Z, T.I. and Lil Wayne, and penning a song for Christina Aguilera, M.I.A. appeared ready for bona fide stardom.

Needless to say, expectations for her third album were lofty, but it appears M.I.A.'s motives were far from any of our expectations. This past April, she unveiled Born Free, a strident blast of Suicide-assisted punk whose video took the "red-headed stepchild" threat to a whole new level.

That track was a warning shot, because /\/\/\Y/\ is abrasive, polarizing and almost impossible to love. But it's not hard to like. While her first two albums, Arular and Kala, elected her as a global ambassador for genre-mashing, /\/\/\Y/\ deconstructs that objective in favour of jarring production and paranoid chatter. Case in point is the transition from the power drill and chainsaw grind of Steppin Up to XXXO's airy dance pop. As divisive as /\/\/\Y/\ is sure to be, Rusko's Story To Be Told and both Diplo's Tell Me Why keep some semblance to what we love about her. M.I.A. has always been an incensed freedom fighter, but on /\/\/\Y/\ she's lost the composed swagger that first made her endearing to us.

Outstanding track:
Tell Me Why

CAM LINDSAY



Great Big Sea
Album: Safe Upon the Shore **Label:** Warner
●●●●○

Whether you like their brand of celtic rock or not, you have to admit that Great Big Sea know how to write an infectious tune. On their 10th album they team up with a interesting array of co-songwriters including Russell Crowe, Randy Bachman and Joel Plaskett. The result is a strong record of incredibly catchy songs (with two covers, Zeppelin's Gallow's Pole and Kink's Have a Cuppa Tea). The music isn't as over-the-top as its been the past.

Outstanding track:
Yankee Sailor

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI





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More threatening calls to Oksana

The callers were allegedly angry over the accusations leveled against Mel Gibson

For Oksana Grigorieva, threatening phone calls sadly seem to have become a part of her life.

In the aftermath of the release three phone calls from ex-boyfriend Mel Gibson she secretly recorded, the Russian singer received multiple threatening phone calls earlier this week that "scared her to death," according to TMZ.

Police are investigating, as at least one of the calls "could be interpreted as a death threat," a source says.

The callers were allegedly upset about Grigorieva's accusations about Gibson.

Gibson is currently under investigation by Los Angeles police amid allegations he was acted violently towards ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva during what was a reported incident in January.

The investigation stems from a recording of Gibson allegedly using offensive racial language in an expletive-laden, recorded argument with his ex.

The former couple is also battling it out over visitation rights to their baby daughter, Lucia, following their split.

Gibson has yet to issue you comment on the investigation.

METRO WORLD NEWS

AP PHOTO



▶ Might be time to change that phone number.

Stamos case concluding

Prosecutors have rested their case in the trial of two people accused of plotting to extort $680,000 from actor John Stamos.

Six FBI agents testified yesterday, including specialists in computers and cellphones.

Allison Coss and Scott Sippola of Marquette are charged with conspiracy and two counts of extortion.

They're accused of demanding money from Stamos in exchange for unflattering photos.

The FBI says the pictures don't exist.

Jurors could get the case Thursday.

Defence lawyers have portrayed Stamos as a promiscuous drug user — allegations he denied while testifying.

Stamos denied defence lawyer Sarah Henderson's accusation that he stripped and sat in a hot tub with Coss, who Henderson said was 17 at the time and wearing only underclothes. Jurors were also shown a photo of Stamos with his arm around Coss.

Federal agents emphatically denied destroying evidence after a sting operation to snare the defendants.

The former Full House and ER star is now preparing to join the Fox show Glee.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Will the court 'Have mercy?'

Celebrity tweets



Mariah Carey [@MariahCarey] Just now hairstylist (who shall remain nameless) abused me w/a curling iron whil trying to curl and dancing to my new song..ow. Now he's all trying to put toothpaste on it and swears its a home remedy,I'm like "Stop crying,you're NOT fired "lol



Lindsay Lohan [@lindsaylohan] Joan Rivers and her "stargument" make me believe that she and Michael Lohan are a match made in heaven....



David Spade [@DavidSpade] i hate when some of these motorcycle guys swerve past me in traffic, cut me off, and pass me on a hill. then they cry when they get killed

METRO WORLD NEWS

Bristol trying Levi on again



Levi Johnston and Bristol Palin have rekindled their romance so intensely that the pair are getting married, according to Us Weekly. Johnston says their reconciliation began three months ago when he went to visit the 19-year-old daughter of former Alaska governor Sarah Palin to discuss custody of the couple's 18-month-old son, Tripp.

"I really thought we were over," he tells the magazine. "So when I went, I had no hope. I think we both just started talking — and then we took Tripp for a walk."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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3 life

News in brief



Stella McCartney will design the outfits worn by British athletes at the 2012 London Olympics.
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Can't jet away this summer? Take a staycation with beachy outfits

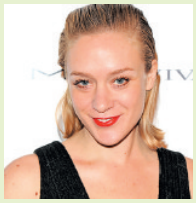
You'll want to live in the style icon's new feminine-meets-cool girl line
Golden Globe winning actress teams with Opening Ceremony

ALL PHOTOS KT AULETTA



▶ Chloe Sevigny's new collection for Opening Ceremony features five dress styles and patterns. The shoes are a partnership with NaNa (see sidebar below).

Chloe's Clothes for real girls



Kickin' it old school

Sevigny on teaming up with '90s shoe brand NaNa:
"For the past year I've been really into the whole fierce bitch look — a lot of leather and sky-high shoes. I thought, 'Well, the dresses are all kind of girly, how can we turn these looks into a fierce bitch?' And one of the boys who works at O.C. was like, 'sky-high, baby!' So we made the shoes really high, but with sturdy heels."

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

Last month, Chloe Sevigny debuted her collection with Opening Ceremony in New York. Instead of models, Sevigny's artsy friends wore the line, which centers around five different styles of dresses in five prints.

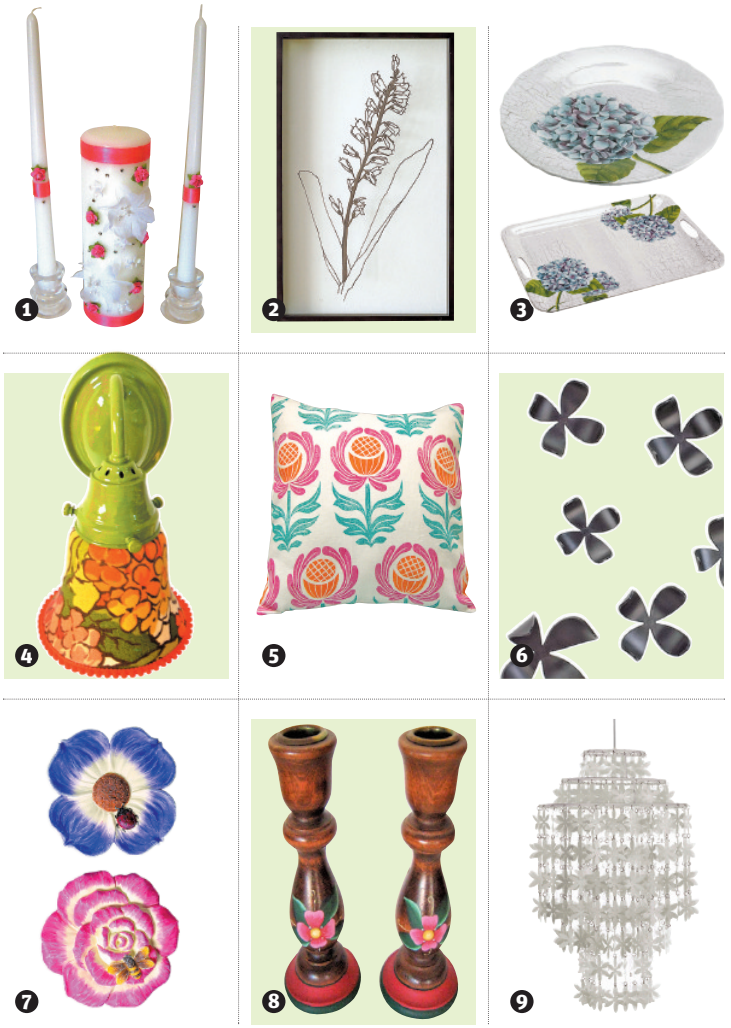
"I love high fashion, but I can't even look at a magazine without having an anxiety attack because we all have issues with our bodies," explains Sevigny. "So for me it's really important to show the clothes on regular girls, or on myself, 'cause I'm a 35-year-old woman. I'm not 110 pounds."

Why did you pick these prints and silhouettes?
I was thinking about how girls buy the same thing over and over again. I do, all of my friends do, so I thought if you find one silhouette you like, you keep buying that dress.

Your collaboration with O.C. is so successful — ever think about doing just a Chloe Sevigny line?
No, that seems really complicated. I've got it pretty easy right now; we get along really well. If I did a J. Lo or Sarah Jessica Parker — not that I'm knocking them, I'm sure they make a gazillion dollars, and good for them — but I don't think that I have enough brand recognition that I could go that big.

What are you coveting right now?
I'm trying to find a new pair of jeans, which I know is the ultimate quest for every woman. My ideal jean would be the Levi's that Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis wore in Thelma & Louise. (Those) Levi's makes every ass look really great. I want the Thelma & Louise ass!

Get ready for some flower power



HOMES IN STYLE

JENNIFER BILL
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Infuse a dose of summer into your home by decorating with the fresh and colourful motif of the outdoors.

Using floral prints can be intimidating for some but coordinating floral accessories with existing colour schemes can add a breath of fresh summer air to a space.

"Florals add colour, they add a very fresh summery vibe to any room," says Jackie Glass of Jacqueline Glass & Associates, an interior design company based in Mississauga. "Adding a beautiful flower pillow can definitely warm up a space. It's really the same as a beautiful piece of artwork."

Choose a coordinating solid colour by matching it to the background colour of the floral print. Or pair different prints by matching the background colours of each piece — just remember not to overuse these patterns.

"In any room you want curvilinear and rectilinear shapes. Lines and curves in a room create balance from a design perspective. (Florals) soften a more austere interior. Adding a little bit of curve, say in a floral pillow, adds balance … and the room works."

Glass says the right balance of florals will add freshness and lightness to a room, a "summery fresh seasonal look.

"In the summer we do gravitate towards that type of pattern. Use in moderation, and mix other patterns with it."

Decorating with florals does add a certain touch of femininity, that might be too much for some.

"It's a pretty look (but) I don't think a guy is going to buy a floral pillow."

1 ETSY $55
Each of Pleasant Ridge's Handmade Wedding Unity Candles, decorated with silk flowers, pearls and rhinestones is individually created. etsy.com.

2 WEST ELM $79
Striking simplicity. Naïve botanical sketches are screen-printed in charcoal on glass. Wood frame in gunmetal. westelm.com.

3 CANADIAN TIRE $3-16
The unique crackle design and floral print of the Hydrangea Garden Tableware Collection in melamine adds a boost of summer to your table. canadiantire.ca.

4 ETSY $32
The Redesigned Metal Sconce is hand-crafted on lovingly recycled lamps and shades, with natural "flaws" adding to the character of the piece. Etsy.com.

5 ETSY $34
Antique Persian botanical designs were the inspiration for this tropical-hued handstamped linen 16" x 16" pillow case. etsy.com.

6 URBAN BARN $25
Inject some life into your walls with these fun and decorative wallflowers, adhered using a tack system with flowers that snap on. urbanbarn.ca.

7 CANADIAN TIRE $7
How can you say no? Small Flower Stepping Stones are available in four flower designs: sunflower, rose, daisy and petunia. canadiantire.ca.

8 ETSY $35
The traditional flowers on the Rosemaling Candle Sticks are painted on one-of-a-kind wooden sticks circa-1960, in the style of folk art floral pattern. etsy.com.

9 URBAN BARN $120
Nothing says summer quite like daisies. With three tiers of hanging white daisies and a gentle glow, the individually cut-out flowers on the Daisy Shade Pendant are connected with small silver circles adding a touch of sparkle. Made from white laser-cut polypropylene. urbanbarn.com.

BRANDON BARRE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Reclaimed wood can have a big impact on a room.

Reclaimed wood spouting up

People are embracing reclaimed wood and giving it new life, designer Vern Yip says.

"We realize it's not an infinite resource we can just keep exploiting," he says. "It's a natural extension of the green movement, colliding with the fact that we're repurposing a lot of things these days."

And wood adds character to a room, the designers say. Old doors, shutters, crates and barns are being repurposed into furniture and floor or wall coverings. "It's that soul you can't buy off the showroom floor," Gorder explains.

Salvaged wood is refreshingly low-maintenance because scratches only add to its charm.

"I have two young children under the age of six," designer Candice Olson says. "So weathered finishes, they really speak to me."

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Brooklyn Warehouse is away from the downtown and a great place for folks who work nearby to grab a quick bite or a leisurely lunch.

I meet two colleagues for a working lunch. Service is efficient and cheerful and the decor is lovely. Tables are far enough apart for a private conversation.

The Bahn-Mi NYC, Vietnamese Pulled Pork on Ciabatta tempts me. With pickled cucumber, Daikon radish, carrot, cilantro and cucumber mayo, it's delicious and filling.

The BLT Club is equally tasty with smoked chicken, bacon, arugula, tomato, and shaved parmesan — served on grilled Ciabatta as well.

The Warm Mushroom Salad features roasted mushrooms, baby spinach, pancetta crisps and feta.

For dessert we share a French Toasted Spice Cake. The texture and appearance is like French Toast, but this orange cardamom-infused cake is something else. All meetings should end so sweetly.

Brooklyn Warehouse
2795 Windsor St.
446-8181
Rating: 3½ of 5
Time in: noon
Time out: 1 p.m.
Low $: Vegan Soup $5
High $: Braised Short Ribs $28
brooklynwarehouse.ca

Strawberry-Cucumber Salad



Light and refreshing strawberry summer salad can be side or main dish

Yields 4
Cooking: 3-5 min.

Ingredients :

- 75 ml (1/3 cup) slivered almonds
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) seedless strawberry preserves or jam
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 10 ml (2 tsp) balsamic vinegar
- 5 ml (1 tsp) Dijon mustard
- 750 ml (3 cups) diced English cucumber
- 250 ml (1 cup) sliced fresh strawberries
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped fresh mint
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- Lettuce leaves for serving, such as bibb, romaine or red leaf lettuce

Preparation:

1. Place almonds in a small, dry skillet and set pan over medium heat. Cook for 3 to 5 minutes until almonds are golden brown, shaking the pan frequently to prevent burning. Set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together preserves, olive oil, balsamic vinegar and Dijon mustard. Add cucumber, strawberries, mint and toasted almonds and toss to combine. Season with salt and black pepper. Serve inside lettuce leaves or over chopped lettuce.

Capturing the taste of Niagara region

Book focuses on cooking with local ingredients Recipes centred around the four seasons



When Tony de Luca attended chef school in Toronto, he already had several years of experience in the kitchen — begun at the age of 12 — and had mastered many technical culinary skills.

That's because his mother had him working in her Italian restaurant which she and de Luca's father opened after emigrating to Canada from Italy in 1970.

"My mom's high-end restaurant named L'Altro, which means 'the other world,' was really the first of its kind of that calibre in Oak Ridges, north of Toronto," he says. "So it was sort of a novelty and people would line up to get in."

In 1987, the young chef went to work at Toronto's prestigious Windsor Arms followed by stints at Langdon Hall in Cambridge, Ont., and Millcroft Inn in Alton, Ont.

In 1996, de Luca jumped at the chance to be hired as executive chef of the Hillebrand Winery Restaurant in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Smitten with the world-famous wine region, he decided to stay there and open his first eatery, the Old Winery Restaurant, and more recently De Luca's Wine Country Restaurant, both in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"My favourite season is late summer into late October," he says. "It is just overwhelming as we are falling over ourselves to use the fresh produce and the farmers markets are heaving with the bounty."

"We are so blessed with all these distinct regions within our country, so why should we not support them."
TONY DE LUCA

Now considered one of the architects of Niagara wine-country cuisine, de Luca has put out a new book. Simply in Season: 12 Months of Wine Country Cooking, in his words, "captures every season of colours, tastes and textures."

De Luca says he has this philosophy that "if we cook locally it becomes an economic point of view, so why wouldn't we?"

But his notion of local stretches nationally.

"We are so blessed with all these distinct regions within our country, so why should we not support them? Why not cheese from Quebec, lamb from Salt Spring Island or scallops from the Gaspe or Digby, N.S.?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

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6 Jason Derulo - Ridin' Solo
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Offence goes missing for N.S.

Blue and White fall 31-0 to Quebec ◆ Will play B.C. for bronze



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

Nova Scotia didn't fare as well in the underdog role last night as they did the first time around at the under-18 Football Canada Cup.

The blue and white was unable to build on its momentum from Sunday's tournament-opening 27-24 upset win over Alberta, dropping a 31-0 decision to Quebec in semifinal action at Raymond Field in Wolfville.

Nova Scotia mustered just 100 yards of total offence and had four passes intercepted, all in the first half.

"Quebec played exceptionally well," Nova Scotia head coach Chris Valardo said. "Defensively we had an outstanding game … But offensively, we just couldn't move the ball. We were out of sorts offensively and it was just one of those nights."

"Defensively we had an outstanding game … But offensively, we just couldn't move the ball. We were out of sorts offensively and it was just one of those nights."
CHRIS VALARDO, NOVA SCOTIA HEAD COACH

There is still plenty at stake for the Bluenose contingent, as it now prepares to face British Columbia in the bronze-medal game on Saturday at 4 p.m.

Valardo said the club "just has to get back to playing like we did against Alberta."

"We stopped ourselves tonight more than Quebec stopped us," Valardo said.

"A medal was the goal. We're going to play for that on Saturday and we're going to play hard."

SCOTT KIRKPATRICK/STKPHOTO.COM



▶ David Culligan of Timberlea, a defensive back for Team Nova Scotia, is tackled by two Quebec players during last night's under-18 Football Canada Cup contest in Wolfville.

Notes

- Receiver Donald Tabor of Dartmouth was named Nova Scotia's offensive player of the game.
- Attendance last night was 1,346.
- Valardo said Nova Scotia has lost five starters to injury. "We're pretty banged up," he said.
- The championship game on Saturday at 7 p.m. pits Quebec versus Saskatchewan.
- Quebec has steamrolled its opponents, with a 55-6 scoring edge.

Final round has Banks looking for crown



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

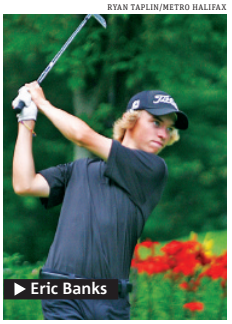
40 Number of years since a Truro member won the NSGA junior boys championship.

Eric Banks will look to pull off a wire-to-wire win today at the Nova Scotia Golf Association junior (ages 10 to 18) boys championship in Dartmouth.

Following yesterday's cancellation of the third round because of rain, Banks sits atop the leaderboard with a three-stroke lead at the Brightwood Golf and Country Club heading into the final round of the annual event.

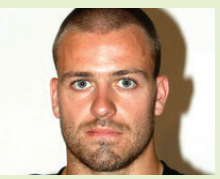
Oakfield's Emily Romkey has a six-stroke lead in her bid for the women's crown.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX



▶ Eric Banks

Sports in brief



Sparre heads to Germany

HOCKEY. Former Halifax Mooseheads winger Daniel Sparre has signed with Kolner Haie of Germany's Deutsche Eishockey Liga. He spent last season in the DEL with the Iserlohn Roosters, recording 24 points in 55 games.

Frost Heaves raising money

PBL. A report on TimesArgus.com indicates the Vermont Frost Heaves have raised $10,000 in their bid to stay in the Premier Basketball League. The PBL has given the Frost Heaves a deadline of Aug. 1 to raise the $100,000 required to stay in the league. **METRO HALIFAX**

4 sports

Sports in brief



1 France striker Thierry Henry has joined the New York Red Bulls in a multi-year deal.

2 David Beckham wants to play soccer for Britain at the London 2012 Olympics.

3 Lionel Messi said he'd enjoy playing with Cesc Fabregas, who's being pursued by Messi's club, Barcelona.

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Jays buy low, sell high with shortstops

Escobar to Toronto, Gonzalez headed to Braves

KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Yunel Escobar, 27, was traded to the Blue Jays yesterday.

The Toronto Blue Jays' acquisition of Yunel Escobar from the Atlanta Braves for fellow shortstop Alex Gonzalez in a five-player swap yesterday appears to be a classic case of buying low and selling high.

Escobar is a wildly talented 27-year-old who appears to have fallen out of favour with the National League East leaders amid a down season. Gonzalez, on the other hand, is a 33-year-old veteran who is performing well above his career norms and was unlucky to not be named an all-star.

So Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos was able to parlay the immediate impact Gonzalez can make on a roster into a young player with huge potential upside that he'll have contractual control of through at least the 2013 season.

The three prospects in the deal — Toronto gets left-hander Jo-Jo Reyes, who was optioned to double-A New Hampshire; Atlanta gets phenom lefty reliever Tim Collins and speedy infielder Tyler Pastornicky — may still swing the trade's final tally toward either team. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wet start looms for British Open

Rain and wind played havoc with the conditions yesterday on the eve of the British Open at the Old Course.

The hard rain and cold wind led the Royal and Ancient to cancel its Champions Challenge, a four-hole exhibition with past Open champions like Lee Trevino, Gary Player, Arnold Palmer and Ben Curtis.

"I was on the range this morning and it's just brutal out there," Nick Faldo said. "It wouldn't have been entertaining for anybody."

The weather will likely be as much of a factor as Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson or any of the players today when the 139th version of golf's oldest championship gets under way at St. Andrews.

Mike Weir is the lone Canadian entered. He tees off with Darren Clarke and Davis Love III.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

Union disputes NBA forecasts

LOCKOUT. Insisting that the NBA's financial projections "strain credulity," players' association executive director Billy Hunter said yesterday he's seen nothing to change his belief that a lockout is possible. Hunter disputes commissioner David Stern's forecast of nearly $400 million US in losses this season.

Lakers are team to beat: Wade

NBA. Dwyane Wade says the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers should be the favourites heading into next season, simply because this Heat team hasn't proved anything yet.

Henry joins Red Bulls

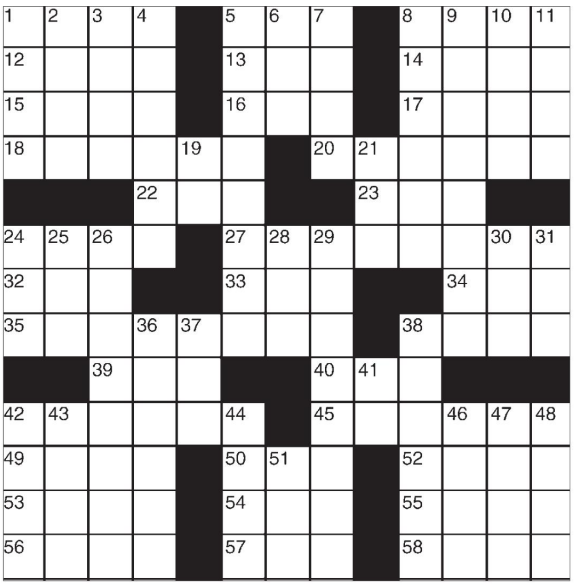
SOCCER. French striker Thierry Henry has joined the MLS New York Red Bulls in a multi-year deal. In yesterday's announcement, the team says that the 32-year-old former Arsenal and Barcelona player will make his debut July 22 in an exhibition against Premier League club Tottenham.

Turkoglu deal now official

NBA. The Toronto Raptors have begun their remake in the wake of Chris Bosh's departure, shipping disgruntled Turkish forward Hedo Turkoglu to Phoenix. In exchange, Toronto gets guard Leandro Barbosa and forward-centre Dwayne Jones. The deal has been in the works for some time, as part of a complex multi-team transaction.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Crossword



Across

1 "T," in Morse code
5 Carte lead-in
8 Unaltered
12 Division word
13 Cranberry territory
14 Ski lift type
15 Ignore
16 Seek damages
17 Venomous vipers
18 Lacks the skills to
20 Loathe
22 CBS newsman Bob
23 Sprint
24 Bedouin
27 Almond liqueur
32 Tavern
33 Corn holder
34 Wet wiggler
35 Break periods
38 Nourish
39 Dove's call
40 Hooter
42 East
45 Deli sandwich
49 History
50 Recede
52 No. 1 choice, for short
53 Cold War initials
54 Exist
55 Took off
56 Fix, in a sense
57 Frenzied
58 Longings

Down

1 Record
2 "— Karenina"
3 Dazzle
4 Rub elbows
5 Theoretical
6 "Skip to My —"
7 On in years
8 Sculpture
9 Missing person?
10 Navigator's stack
11 Once, once
19 Either- —
21 Blunder
24 Spring mo.
25 Regret
26 Graph coordinate
28 Larry's pal
29 Soaked up
30 Ball holder
31 See 7-Down
36 Verse
37 Charged bit
38 Superficial
41 Lindbergh book
42 Piece of work
43 Grate
44 Squad
46 Cotton quantity
47 Squared
48 Information
51 Support of a sort

▶ Yesterday's answer

D	A	D	A	■	T	A	B	■	P	A	P	A		
E	R	I	C	■	A	L	L	■	A	D	E	N		
M	O	S	Q	U	I	T	O	■	T	E	R	N		
I	N	C	U	S	■	■	C	L	I	Q	U	E		
■	■	■	I	A	M	B	■	I	O	U	■	■		
J	U	S	T	■	O	R	A	L	■	A	N	D		
E	R	E	■	E	V	I	C	T	■	C	O	O		
D	N	A	■	R	E	A	R	■	P	Y	R	E		
■	■	Q	B	S	■	R	E	F	S	■	■	■		
E	Q	U	A	T	E	■	■	A	E	R	I	E		
D	U	A	L	■	M	A	P	Q	U	E	S	T		
N	I	K	E	■	I	C	E	■	D	A	N	A		
A	P	E	S	■	T	E	A	■	O	P	T	S		

Sudoku

	9		8	7	5		3	
7								4
		8				5		
3	1		2		6		7	5
				3				
6	5		4		8		2	9
		2				6		
9								2
	6		7	2	9		1	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	5	6	4	8	1	3	7	2
3	7	1	2	6	5	9	4	8
2	8	4	9	7	3	5	1	6
7	9	2	6	4	8	1	3	5
6	1	5	3	2	7	8	9	4
8	4	3	5	1	9	2	6	7
4	6	9	1	5	2	7	8	3
5	3	8	7	9	4	6	2	1
1	2	7	8	3	6	4	5	9

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Marc Carr — I love you VERY MUCH. As we celebrate our four year wedding anniversary — I still feel like a newlywed! I love you baby and cheers to another four years! xoxo
TASHA CARR

Nadiya and Leon. You are the best grandparents!! I love you sooo much!!! Thank you for everything that you have done for me. I will never forget it. LOVE YOU!!!!!
ALINA

You are the sun in my day, the wind in my sky, the waves in my ocean, and the beat in my heart. I love you so much Meg, you're amazing.
<3 ALEX

Oh, Mary. Thanks for being a marvelous cousin! I love you mucho.
BELINDA

The Weather Network
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today	Friday	Saturday
Sunny	Variable	Showers
27° / 15°	25° / 17°	40% 25° / 19°

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
Don't bother sticking to a rigid plan of action because it will severely limit your options. In fact it might be best if you had no plan at all. Take life as it comes.

♉ Taurus April 23-May 21 You make your share of mistakes but unlike some people you are not afraid to admit it. While others are still trying to deny they made a wrong turning today you will be retracing your steps and then getting it right.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 The only thing that matters today is that you follow your instincts and follow to the letter what your inner voice tells you.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
Bring your thoughts down to earth and start looking at ways you can make your life more secure financially. Grand ideas and plans can be fun but you have to pay the bills.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Your confidence may be a bit low but other aspects promise that your potential is unlimited, so stop feeling sorry for yourself and start doing the things you are good at. Get creative.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Virgos are more sensitive to what goes on in the world around them than they like to let on and you will notice things today that others have missed. If you are smart and quick you can make it pay. Start now.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You like to be helpful, and you are no stranger to putting yourself out for other people, but there are limits and what someone asks you to do today can and must be refused.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You know what you want and you know how to get it, but you may have to wait until the 22nd before the opportunity arises. That's okay. You're patient.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Speak from the heart and let everyone know how you feel. Some people may not like your candid comments but only because they know they are true (and make them look bad). Call it as you see it, and call it loud.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You have allowed certain issues to slide and if you don't get on top of them quickly they may be out of your control for good. Chances are you have relied too heavily on others to make decisions for you.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Don't try to keep your thoughts to yourself today because others will know in an instant that you are trying to hide something.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Something isn't working and needs to be changed. You know what that something is and you know you have put it off too many times already. Get tough with yourself.
● SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

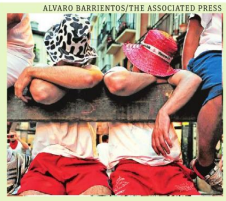
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/KYODO NEWS



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